

Message Text

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13
ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 INSE-00 VO-03

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P 240300Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4666

INFO US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 303

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

US MISSION UN NEW YORK 760

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 5489

FOR D/HA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE BOAT CASES: THE "MIGHTY"

REF: (A) KUALA LUMPUR 5400 (NOTAL), (B) SINGAPORE 4369 (NOTAL), (C)

BANGKOK 26128 (NOTAL), (D) JAKARTA 12315 (NOTAL), (E) GENEVA

7334 (NOTAL)

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1. UNHCR OFFICE HERE INFORMS US THAT AS OF TODAY (SEPT 23) JAPANESE

REGISTRY VESSEL THE "MIGHTY" WITH 49 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD IS LYING AT ANCHOR OFF PORT KLANG, MALAYSIA. UNHCR REGIONAL REP SAMPATKUMAR RETURNED TO KUALA LUMPUR THIS MORNING (SEPT 23) FROM TRIP TO JAKARTA (REF C) AND TELEPHONED DCM TO REPORT THAT THE VESSEL STILL WAS IN MALAYSIAN WATERS AND THAT HE WAS FORWARDING A LIST OF THOSE ABOARD AND THEIR BIO DATA. HE NOTED THAT EIGHT OF THE ORIGINAL FIFTY-SEVEN ABOARD HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY FRANCE AND DEBARKED AT SINGAPORE. HE ALSO INDICATED CANADIANS WERE INTERESTED IN ONE FAMILY OF THREE BUT PERSONAL INTERVIEW (ON LAND) WOULD BE REQUIRED. OTHERS ALL (AS USUAL) HOPE THEY WILL BE ACCEPTED BY U.S.

2. MISS FRASER, SAMPATKUMAR'S OFFICE ASSISTANT, TOLD US SHE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SHIP OWNERS WHO HAVE AGREED TO DELAY "MIGHTY"'S DEPARTURE PENDING AN ATTEMPT PERSUADE GOM TO REVERSE ITS DECISION NOT RPT NOT PERMIT REFUGEES DISEMBARK (REF A) ON GROUNDS VESSEL IS OVERCROWDED AND THOSE ABOARD FACING UNDUE HARDSHIP.

3. SAMPATKUMAR SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD WRITTEN TO WORKING LEVEL OF MFA THIS MORNING WITH APPEAL ALLOW REFUGEES DEBARK, BUT THAT HE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY CONTACTING OFFICIAL DIRECTLY CONCERNED. EMBOFF NOTED THAT US OFFICIALS ALREADY HAVE INTERVIEWED GROUP ABOARD "MIGHTY" AND BIO CABLES HAVE BEEN SENT TO INITIATE PROCESSING; UNHCR SHOULD FEEL FREE TO CITE THIS IN CONTACTS WITH MFA. EMBOFF CAUTIONNED THAT WE COULD NOT RPT NOT SAY WITH CERTAINTY, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN IF FOUND ELIGIBLE UNDER EPP CRITERIA, SLOTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THESE CASES.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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